

REMARKS

Applicant has filed the present Amendment and Response in reply to the Final Official Action dated March 19, 2007 and Applicant believes that the Amendment and Response are fully responsive to the Final Official Action for at least the reasons set forth herein.

Claims 11, 15 and 17 are allowed. Applicant submits that Claims 12-14 and 16 should also be allowed (as opposed to having allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten) as being dependent from allowed Claims 11 and 15.

In the Final Official Action, the Examiner stated that Claims 2-6, 8-10, 12-14 and 16 (as noted above, Claims 12-14 and 16 are listed in error) have allowable subject matter and would be allowed if written in independent form including all of the limitations of the rejected base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Claims 2-4 and Claim 8 have been rewritten in independent form including the limitations of Claim 1 and 7, respectively. Claims 1, 7 and 18 have been cancelled herewith without any prejudice to their reintroduction in a later filed related application.

Applicant submits that Claims 5, 6, 9 and 10 are patentable over the cited reference at least based upon the aforementioned amendments to Claims 4 and 8. Claims 2-6 and 8-17 are in condition for allowance. Applicant further submits that the rejection of Claims 1, 7 and 18 is moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of Claims 1, 7 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b).

In conclusion, the Applicant believes that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance and henceforth respectfully solicits the Examiner to allow the

application. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference might expedite the allowance of this application, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner call the undersigned, Applicant's attorney, at the following telephone number: (516) 742-4343.

Respectfully submitted,


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